

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069651

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 069651 ACTION LONDON BONN EC BRUSSELS
BRUSSELS TOKYO PARIS ROME 05 APR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069651

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ETRD

SUBJECT: COMMODITY SUPPLY PROBLEMS

1. DEPT IS CURRENTLY CHAIRING INTERAGENCY STUDY ON MATERIALS SHORTAGES (MAINLY NON-FUELS MINERALS BUT INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS FROM AGRICULTURAL SOURCES, E.G., NATURAL RUBBER) AND POSSIBILITY OF CONCERTED PRODUCER COUNTRY ACTIONS LEADING TO HIGHER PRICES AND/OR WITHHOLDING OF SUPPLIES FOR ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL REASONS.
2. WE NEED ANY INFO POSTS CAN OBTAIN THROUGH LOW KEY, WORKING LEVEL APPROACH CONCERNING HOST GOVERNMENT'S ASSESSMENT OF COUNTRIES' VULNERABILITY TO CARTEL-LIKE ACTIONS BY COUNTRIES WHICH ARE EXPORTERS OF VARIOUS RAW MATERIALS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EC AND SOME MAJOR INDUSTRIAL CONSUMER COUNTRIES ARE CONDUCTING SIMILAR STUDIES. DUTCH STUDY RECEIVED AND APPRECIATED. EVEN PRELIMINARY RESULTS OR CONCLUSIONS OF SUCH STUDIES WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL SINCE
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ASSESSMENT OF OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES' VUL-

NERABILITY TO CONCERTED EXPORTER ACTION (SUPPLY AND PRICE MANAGEMENT) SHOULD BE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN OUR STUDY. PLEASE REPLY BY CABLE, FORWARDING ANY EXTENSIVE MATERIAL BY AIR POUCH TO DEPT (EB/ISM) FOR MICHAEL DUX.

3. DEPT PARTICULARLY NEEDS INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING POINTS AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OBTAINING THESE DATA IF THEY ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN STUDIES ALREADY PREPARED BY HOST GOVT:

A) SPECIFIC COMMODITIES WHICH HOST COUNTRY CONSIDERS MOST VULNERABLE TO EXPORTER COUNTRY ACTION;

B) HOST COUNTRY PRODUCTION/CONSUMPTION STATISTICS FOR THESE COMMODITIES (LATEST YEAR, IF REPRESENTATIVE, OR 2-3 YEAR AVERAGE);

C) DEGREE OF IMPORT DEPENDENCE AND PRINCIPAL IMPORT SOURCES; AND

D) MEASURES HOST GOVERNMENTS AND EC PROPOSE TO TAKE TO DISARM OR COUNTER CONCERTED PRODUCER ACTIONS. RUSH

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